

Shoreline

Design Goals

The goal is to create a healthy aesthetic along the the Lake Washington Boulevard shoreline. It wil enhances the human experience by honoring the original Olmsted Brothers design of planting in masses of native plants to frame views of Lake Washington and the Cascade Mountains and maintain a sense of wildness on the site. The design seeks to respect and enhance current human use patterns, while decreasing the amount of maintenance needed. It will reduce erosion to the shoreline and aid in the lifecycle of the native salmon population. It will ultimately make the overall shoreline a more sustainable environment for human and animal habitat.

The overarching question is: **“What would the Olmsted brothers do, knowing what we know about ecological processes, Seattle Parks maintenance constraints and current human use patterns?”**

Site Background

Historic Photographs



Contemporary Photographs



Olmsted Brother Intentions*

- Plantings on shoreline should preserve, frame and take advantage of mountain and water views
- Do not plant garden varieties of shrubs - plant wild creepers and low bushes
- Use native plants
- Don't plant in rows
- Preserve natural wild growth & harmonize new plantings with time

EDAW's Observations/Recommendations*

- Plantings are more formal than original Olmsted intent
- Much more exotic, formal, gardenesque, some native and invasive, most plantings in rows.
- Lawns not consistent with original Olmsted intent
- The views are unframed, continuous, not special
- Low-maintenance plantings plantings should replace turf areas in steep + low use areas

Additional Observations

- Many lawn areas are heavily used by in the summer
- Invasive species (Himalayan blackberry, Japanese knotweed and reed canarygrass) dominate whole sections of the shoreline
- Bulkheads are an especially problematic habitat barrier

*(Notes from the “Long Range Guidelines and Design Improvement Program for the Rastoration of the Lake Washington Boulevard”, prepared for City of Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation, May 1986 by EDAW Landscape Architects, Urban Designers & Planners)

Design Strategy

The central design strategy consists of *drifts of native plantings*, which appropriately located. will weave together the Olmsteds' aesthetic intent for the shoreline, current need for ecological enhancement, and low-maintenance park landscape.

Precedents



University of Washington Fishery Sciences Building
Designer: Swift & Company Landscape Architects
Native Plant Drifts



Lake Washington Boulevard
Non-native Cistus Drift